

REMARKS

Claims 19, 21, 29-40 and 51-55 have been canceled without prejudice. Pending claims 20, 22-28, and 41-50 as amended without prejudice are presented for the Examiner's review and consideration. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in the Office Action that claims 41-46 are allowable over the prior art. Claims 20, 23, 25, 26, 28, 47, 48 and 50 which formerly depended from canceled independent claims 19 and 40 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 41. No new matter has been added, as the amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the grounds for the Examiner's rejection of independent claims 19, 30, 40 and 51 for at least the reasons set forth in applicants' Amendment filed on April 8, 2003. To expedite allowance of the entire application, however, claims 19, 29-40 and 51-55 have been canceled without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue them in one or more continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional applications.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn. Thus, all current claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-4553, if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with the submission of this amendment. Should any fees be required, however, please charge all required fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17 to Pennie & Edmonds Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,



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